

SIR — I note from a recent issue of the Evening News that Wycombe Wanderers' childish gesture at Chesham, in refusing to accept their Berks and Bucks Senior Cup and medals, is now being ventilated at national level.

It has been a requirement for many years that clubs affiliated to the Berks and Bucks F.A. must enter their county cup competition at whatever level they are eligible. The Berks and Bucks F.A. committee is the democratically elected body having jurisdiction over all clubs in the two counties. If the Wanderers wished to make a gesture it would have been preferable that they chose some other form of protest rather than insult their opponents and other officials as was done at Chesham.

Whatever kudos or goodwill that was engendered by their 1-0 defeat by Middlesbrough — if this is what is called success — has been nullified by a gesture that disgusts any but their die-hard supporters.

As always, the Wanderers want their cake as well as eating it. Magnanimously they occasionally allowed their 'hallowed hillside' to be used by what they regard as 'village green' players but this is about their only contribution to local junior soccer. There is a wealth of talent in Wycombe junior and intermediate football which is ignored by the Wanderers in favour of players from all points of the compass.

The best punishment that the Berks and Bucks F.A. could inflict on the Wanderers is to accede to their request to play in the London Senior Cup — after all they did once win the Amateur Cup, who knows they might even win the London Senior Cup before the end of the century. But meanwhile I suggest they remember that there are thousands of players in Berks and Bucks F.A. who don't play for Wycombe and who are proud of medals and cups.

Tony Newell

Nightingales,
Copes Road,
Great Kingshill,
High Wycombe.

SIR, I feel that I must comment on the letter from Mr. T. Newell in the current edition of your paper. I also do not personally approve of the Wanderers' action concerning the Berks & Bucks Cup. However, I am not disgusted, so I must admit to being a "die-hard supporter," and that is the only comment in the letter with which I can concur.

I find the fact that Wanderers applauded their opponents off the field at Chesham, a strange insult indeed. The Berks & Bucks F.A. may be democratically elected, but this does not imply that they are beyond criticism. I wonder if Mr. Newell agrees, in all seriousness, that Wycombe should be prevented from entering the London Senior Cup? I strongly suspect that Mr. Newell, for reasons best known to himself, is more than somewhat jealous of Wanderers' successes, and I can only interpret his remark that they may win the London Senior Cup before the end of the century as a severe attack of "sour grapes."

With regard to the "hallowed hillside" and "village Green" I am curious to know exactly what he expects of the club. I am sure that if any local talent wished to present itself to the club (could there be a better example than evergreen Tony Horseman?), and was found to be of sufficient standard, the club would be delighted to put it to good use. Can Mr. Newell suggest any genuine reason why they wouldn't? Or is Mr. Newell seriously advocating

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that the club should utilise local players only, and accept a lower standard of football than that which they can produce with their current team?

For over 30 years I have watched and taken an active interest in football at all levels, and in many places — between Arab boys kicking a ball about in the desert, to the Mecca of Wembley. When time permits, I am happy to watch the schoolboys playing football on the Rye, all of which suggest that I do not believe that Wycombe Wanderers are "God's gift to football" nor the club beyond criticism.

However, I consider the general "sniping" tone of Mr. Newell's letter quite unjustified and a much greater example of the bigotted attitude of which he appears to complain. Of course, he is absolutely entitled to his opinions but in this instance they are quite beyond my comprehension.

For my money, the Wanderers have brought much credit to the game, never mind suggesting that they brought it into disrepute. No — come on, Mr. Newell, please! Criticism? Certainly, but let it be constructive, give credit where it is due, and stop belly-aching!

D. H. FORD

112 Telford Way,
High Wycombe,
Bucks.

Blues help out

TWO members of Wycombe Wanderers' squad — defender Paul Griffiths and midfield player Graham Mackenzie — will play a few games for Hungerford Town in the Hellenic League before the end of the season.

The two Wycombe men, who do not get a regular game with the Blues at the present time, will strengthen Hungerford's drive to avoid relegation from the Premier Division. In return, Wanderers will be able to call on Hungerford's goalkeeper Rod Orland if John Maskell is unavailable. They have also acquired the services of Thatcham keeper Charlie Palmer, should it be necessary.

Wycombe took this step because their second choice goalkeeper, Brian Steventon, has left college and returned to his home in Crewe.